proposed draft amendments have since been received. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 provides a time limit of 365 days for finalization of the draft Notification from the date of its issue after taking into consideration the comments received.

An Expert Group constituted under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Sindhushree Khullar, Special Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs to examine the schemes of statutory clearances for industrial and infrastructure projects in India in its report dated November 10, 2008 made recommendations for rationalizing the procedure for environmental clearance which *inter-alia* included; (i) expeditious constitution of the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authorities for all the States / UTs, (ii) evolving of standardized Terms of Reference for undertaking detailed Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies, (iii) wide publicity for the provision existing in the EIA Notification regarding appointment of alternate agency for timely completion of public hearing, (iv) exemption of certain category of expansion projects from the purview of EIA and (v) combined clearance under CRZ Notification of 1991 and EIA Notification, 2006.

(e) and (f) The Expert Group as referred to above was to examine the schemes of statutory clearances for industrial and infrastructure projects and suggest specific steps for removal of bottlenecks and speeding up the approval process of these projects. The other Members of the Group included; (i) Dr. Renu Singh Parmar, Advisor (Industry), Planning Commission, (ii) Shri N.N. Prasad, Joint Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, (iii) Shri Hari Sankaran, Managing Director, Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd., (iv) Dr. Rajiv Lall, Managing Director & CEO, Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd., (v) Shri S.S. Kohli, Chairman and Managing Director, India infrastructure Finance Company Ltd., (vi) Shri Shubendu Amitabh, Senior President (Corporate Affairs), Aditya Birla Management Corporation Ltd., Representative of ASSOCHAM, (vii) Shri Ravi Singh, CEO, World Wildlife Fund for Nature - India, Representative of CII, (viii) Shri Surendra Kumar, Advisor, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Representative of FICCI and (ix) Dr. Arvind Mayaram, Joint Secretary, Infrastructure, Department of Economic Affairs.

(g) The various steps taken to bring transparency in the clearance process inter-alia include, exhibiting the information in public domain on the website of the Ministry relating to (i) status of pending projects, (ii) schedule and agenda of the meeting of Expert Appraisal Committees, (iii) minutes of the meeting, (iv) clearance letters and (v) circulars and guidelines/instructions relating to Environmental Clearance.

(h) The environment clearance process is attempted to be implemented in a transparent manner and the information shared with all stakeholders.

Encroachment in forests

894. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is undertaking surveys to detect encroachment of quarries, mines, etc. into forests;

(b) if so, details of the States where such surveys have been ordered and the status thereof;

(c) the details of the agencies conducting such surveys and expected time of completion; and

(d) whether Government is considering to make the survey reports public and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Protection of Forests is the responsibility of the State/UT Government. Depending on the gravity of the encroachment, etc., the State/UTs do resort to undertake surveys to determine its extent. Such surveys can be undertaken by the working plan Divisions of the State Forest Department, Forest Survey of India and Survey of India etc. The Central Government do not maintain records of such survey. In the complaints involving violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act,1980, depending on its seriousness, the Central Government also requests the State/UT Governments to get the survey conducted to ascertain the extent of the violation of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act,1980.

Yamuna Action Plan

895. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over Rs.1500 crore have already gone down the drain under Yamuna Action Plan while the river continues to flow like a drain;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in implementation of the Plan and the steps being taken to keep it clean; and

(c) the steps to be taken to complete the Plan within contemplated limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Implementation of river pollution abatement works is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and the State Governments. The water quality of river Yamuna is within the prescribed limits in the State of Haryana. The water quality, however, has not shown the desired improvement in Delhi and in parts of U.P. due to large gap between the requirement and availability of sewage treatment capacity together with lack of availability of fresh water during the lean season.

Under Yamuna Action Plan(YAP) Phase-I, pollution abatement works such as interception and diversion of sewage, installation of sewage treatment plants (STPs), low cost sanitation, crematoria, river front development, public participation & awareness were taken up at a cost of Rs.682 crore in 21 towns in the three States of U.P., Haryana and Delhi. A total of 38 STPs having a treatment capacity of 753.25 million litres per day (mild) have been created under this phase.

The ongoing YAP Phase - II was started in December 2004 at an estimated cost of Rs.624 crore for the three States of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. The works envisaged under YAP Phase-II include rehabilitation/ laying of trunk sewers, creation of additional 135 mild sewage treatment